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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A component restraint system that is used to secure an electronic component to a circuit board, comprising:

a backing plate;

a post extending from said backing plate, said post having a ~~stop surface~~ plurality of stop surfaces;

a spring radially disposed around said post; and

a clip which, when inserted onto said post, engages ~~the~~ a stop surface of said post and compresses said spring.

2. (Original) The restraint system of claim 1 further including a plurality of posts protruding from said backing plate, each post having a clip and a spring disposed thereon.

3. (Original) The restraint system of claim 1 further including four posts protruding from said backing plate and including stop surfaces, each post having a clip and a spring disposed thereon.

4. (Original) The restraint system of claim 2 wherein each post has an upper end distal from said backing plate and the clip for each post is pushed down over the upper end until the clips engage the stop surfaces of the posts.

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5. (Original) The restraint system of claim 4 wherein said electronic component and circuit board are disposed between said backing plate and said springs and, as said springs are compressed by said clips, said electronic component is secured to said circuit board.

6. (Original) The restraint system of claim 5 further including heat sink also disposed between said backing plate and said springs, said heat sink further disposed between said electronic component and said springs.

7. (Currently amended) The restraint system of claim 4 wherein said upper ends of said posts comprise tips formed between the distal end of the post and the stop surfaces, each tip having a smaller cross section at its distal end than at the stop surfaces.

8. (Original) The restraint system of claim 4 wherein said upper ends of said posts are substantially conically shaped.

9. (Currently amended) The restraint system of claim 1 wherein said clip includes protruding members which define a hole in which said post is inserted, said protruding members are pushed apart as said clip is pushed along said post towards ~~said~~ a stop surface.

10. (Canceled).

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11. (Currently amended) An electronic assembly, comprising:
a circuit board;
a backing plate;
a plurality of springs;
a plurality of posts extending from said backing plate through said circuit board and said springs, each post having a plurality of stop surfaces;
an electronic component and heat sink sandwiched between said circuit board and said springs; and
a plurality of clips, one clip per post, which, when inserted onto said posts, are pushed down the posts towards said backing plate until the clips engage the stop surfaces of said posts, said clips compress said springs as the clips are pushed toward said stop surfaces.
12. (Currently amended) The circuit board of claim 11 wherein each clip includes protruding members which define a hole in which said post is inserted, said protruding members are pushed apart as said clip is pushed down said post towards ~~said~~ a stop surface.
13. (Currently amended) The circuit board of claim 11 in which said posts have a distal end opposite said backing plate that includes a tip that has a cross section that increases from the distal end of the post towards the stop surfaces.

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14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently amended) A clip plate assembly used to mate a component to a circuit board, comprising:

a substantially flat plate;

four clip retainer members protruding from said plate, each clip retainer member adapted to hold a locking clip;

said clip plate assembly placed over four posts protruding from a circuit board, each post having a plurality of stop surfaces, and said clip plate assembly pressed down over said posts until said locking clips engage said stop surfaces thereby mating the component to the circuit board.

16. (Currently amended) A component used to secure a device to a circuit board, comprising:

a backing surface; and

a plurality of posts extending from said backing surface, each post having a plurality of stop surfaces near a distal end of the post opposite said backing surface, said stop surfaces used to engage clips when said component is used to secure the device to a circuit board.

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17. (Currently amended) The component of claim 16 wherein each post has a tip at its distal end that has a cross sectional area that increases from the distal end of the post towards the stop surfaces.

18. (Original) The component of claim 17 wherein said tips are substantially conical in shape.

19. (Canceled).

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20. (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:
a processor and heat sink;
an output device coupled to said processor;
a circuit board;
a backing plate;
a plurality of springs;
a plurality of posts extending from said backing plate through said circuit board and said springs, each post having a plurality of stop surfaces;
said processor and heat sink disposed between said circuit board and said springs; and
a plurality of clips, one clip per post, which, when inserted onto said posts, are pushed down the posts towards said backing plate until the clips engage the stop surfaces of said posts, said clips compress said springs as the clips are pushed toward said stop surfaces.